

Washington July 31st 1888

Rev. J.A. Stephan

Dear Miss K. M. Drexel,

Your letters of July 27th & 30th came to hand, also the plans from Mr. Burns were received. I would have answered your first letter promptly, but was in such a state of confusion & troubles cause by the "Sects" on account of my too many contracts for Indiana schools (\$320,000 this year); So that Secretary Vilas got scared and he and myself have had a long conference last Friday and yesterday again. I made 2 full written statements and explanations. I found out that the Protestants have many unoccupied schoolhouses in the Indian Territory amongst the 5 civilized tribes, for which they seek Gov't aid, but were refused last year and waited and watched for my applications in order to entrap me for opening the door for them. By the oversight of the Benedictine fathers, they did build at Purcell in the Chickasaw country, instead of across the line; and St. Michel's at Leighi in the Choctaw nation, both civilized tribes, instead as you and I had laid out to build at the Comanche's reservation. Therefore I tried to withdraw my contracts for these 2 places in order to prevent the Protestants from getting contracts which would take away from us \$85000.00. They tried very hard and bitter, that my contracts should stand and not be allowed to be withdrawd, but I succeeded in getting the contracts back and defeated them and their old schoolhouses have a quiet vacation for one more year. As Very Rev. Ignace O.S.B. gets this year from the general collection about \$7000.00 as his allotment he can easily support the few scholars he has at Leighi & Purcell. The other schools in the Indian Territory are all right. They must be careful not to make another blunder. They go ahead like a tramp, not caring where they land. I am thankful to God that he kept us here to do that work.

To you kind letter of the 27th I have to say:

1. I shall advise the Rev. Ubach to get the Indian land (120 acres which was our Indian mission and belongs by right to the Indians) from the Bishop and build a school there, where they have plenty of water and good tillable land.
2. Rev. Bandini S.J. got in all, up to date \$6000.00 for building. Your idea, to get the property in the name of the Bureau, if you send him \$5000.00 more is an excellent, just and correct one, but my sad experience tells and teaches me forcibly, that the Jesuits will not consent to it, and may at any time change the school into a white school if they deem it more profitable for themselves.

3. the iron bedsteads—250 were ordered by you to be shipped to Rensselaer and from there re-shipped in parcels to the different Indian missions. I have send him, Rev. Willard, the list and directions, but I think it would be best you pay for the extra boxing, it is cheapest in the end.

4. wrote to Bishop Junger to send Very Rev. Hylebos for 6 months

5. You kindly ask me : “How are you”? My bodily health is some better, but my mind is a “perpetuum mobile” in confusion, and I consider it a great rest , when done, and can leave Washington the roasting griddle.

6. Student —Werz C.P.P.S., who called on you, is the person he represents to be, but better wait with your donation until I see what help I get from his order for the poor Indians. I wrote to the Provincial at Carthegena.

To you letter of the 30th I have to say:

1. Please engage Mr. Paul A. Reilly from the 1st of Aug. and let him make all his plans and prepare a list of tools which we will buy in Chicago. Whenever he is ready send him to St. Joseph’s and give him a letter to Muhlbauer & Behrle, who can tell him where to find me.

2. I will write today to Bishop Brondell to allow the Ursaline Sisters to take charge of St. Stephens Indian School Wyoming.

3. I did send yesterday John O’Connor of Philadelphia and Henry Murdock of Washington D.C. both 18 years old, to St. Joseph’s to prepare to be Indian teachers. I instructed them since 10 days daily and told them to be kind industrious and self-sacrificing, else I do not want them. Better give them a bitter dose first, which cures and keeps the spiritual stomach best.

Heaven’s best blessing to all of you.

As soon as I can start from here, I will let you know at once. Adress me now: Sun Building and when I am gone West: 41 Lasalle St. Chicago.

Truly yours in the Sacred Hearts,

J.A. Stephan